

# MID-OCEAN AMERICA



THE YOUTH'S COMPANION  
BOSTON, MASS.

## Publishers' Notice.

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For many years America has been interested in the progress of Hawaii, then Samoa became prominent, and later the Spanish War and the Canal project turned attention to other Pacific islands. The principal events and conditions in these islands have been faithfully reported in the columns of *The Youth's Companion*. This book contains selections from those articles which seem to be of permanent value to people interested in our national development.

The *Companion's* record of the islands of the Pacific is fairly representative of the way in which it treats all countries and all events prominent in the progress of civilization.

But its Editorials on Current Topics are only one feature of the paper. It is pre-eminently a literary paper, with many departments, all calculated to interest and inspire and help in all that is best in family life.

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Uniform with this book are published "*IN PORTO RICO*" and "*IN THE PHILIPPINES*," describing the latest acquisitions of the United States.

# MID-OCEAN AMERICA

## ISLANDS IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

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SELECTIONS  
From The Youth's Companion.

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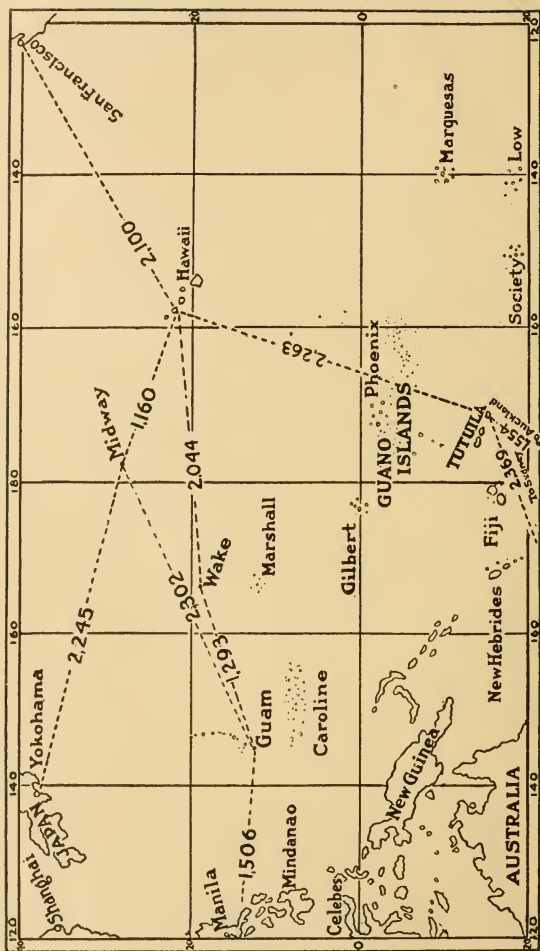
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## Hawaii and its Accession.

A hundred years ago the Hawaiian Islands were densely populated by different tribes of savages, who often made war upon each other.

Then the chief of a strong tribe on the island of Hawaii, after a long series of conquests, united the whole group under one government and proclaimed himself king.

This first king was Kamehameha the Great, who is honored by a statue in front of the government building at Honolulu.

In his reign Christian missionaries began their labors among the Hawaiians, and under the rule of his successors, schools and churches were established throughout all the islands.

American and European trade developed, and civilization progressed so rapidly that when a republic was proclaimed in 1893, Hawaii, although so small, was

recognized as one of the independent nations of the world.

The area of the whole eight islands is but little larger than the State of Connecti-

cut, and the population is a little over one hundred thousand, of which one-fifth is in the city of Honolulu.

The harbor of Honolulu is one of the prettiest in the world. It is not large, but it is safe in any weather, and its location at the cross-roads of the Pacific makes it very valuable to commerce.



STATUE OF KAMEHAMEHA.

Honolulu grew very rapidly under the administration of King Kalakaua, who

encouraged modern improvements. The business portion is built of stone and brick, and has every appearance of a progressive American city.

The dwelling-houses are built of wood, and are surrounded by extensive gardens



COTTAGE HIDDEN IN FOLIAGE.

of tropical trees and flowers. Even the poor people live in little wooden cottages almost hidden in profuse foliage. The native grass hut still serves a good purpose throughout all the islands, but it is rapidly



disappearing before the march of modern improvements, which are utilizing the riches of soil and climate.

The largest sugar plantations in the world are located in our new territory. The most modern methods of railway,



NATIVE GRASS HUT.

steam and electricity are used. Artesian wells supply any possible lack of rain, and everything known to science is employed to secure profitable results every year.

Coffee plantations are increasing every year, and Hawaiian coffee is becoming known as equal to any in the world. With

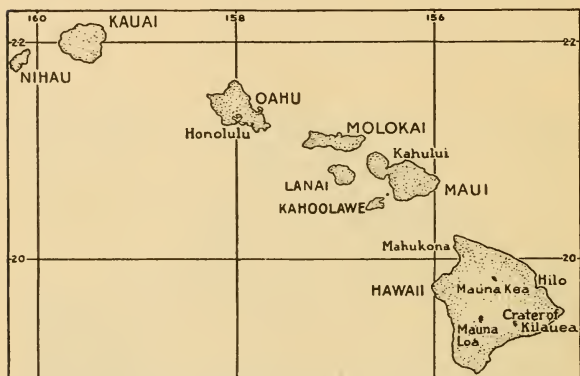


the advent of Chinese laborers, extensive swamps have been turned into profitable rice-fields. On the hillsides, where tillage would be inconvenient, immense herds of cattle and swine may feed. Nearly all the large enterprises are American.

The native Kanaka and some foreigners get a marvellously easy living out of small patches of ground where they raise taro, bananas, cocoanuts, and whatever of every kind of vegetable they wish. Home is a paradise to the native, who revels in the ever abundance of flowers.

Wise American statesmen carefully observed the increasing products of the Hawaiian group, and the corresponding increase of trade with the United States; the little kingdom had granted us the only American coaling station between San Francisco and Yokohama; so when the change of government came, no prudent statesman could endure the thought of European supremacy over those islands.

In the closing days of President Harrison's administration, a treaty was submitted to the Senate, providing for the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands, which had just



MAP OF HAWAII.

become a republic. The treaty did not reach a vote in the Senate, and was withdrawn by President Cleveland soon after he came into office. A new treaty, closely resembling the earlier one, was negotiated, and submitted to the Senate by President McKinley.

Under the treaty, the government of the

Hawaiian Islands offered to the United States all rights of sovereignty over the islands if the United States would assume the public debt of Hawaii, to an amount not to exceed four million dollars.

The Senate of Hawaii promptly ratified the treaty providing for the annexation of the islands to the United States. The action was taken at a special session by a unanimous vote. The Senate of the United States did not vote upon this treaty, but took another form of legislation.

The President, July 7, 1898, signed resolutions providing for the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands, which had previously passed both Houses of Congress. The President was given power to provide for the government of the islands until Congress should enact laws for that purpose. He appointed five commissioners, including President Dole and a judge of the Hawaiian Supreme Court, to recommend to Congress suitable legislation for the island.

President Sanford B. Dole was at the head of the provisional government which succeeded the deposed Queen Liliuokalani, in January, 1893, and was President of the



GOVERNOR DOLE.

Hawaiian Republic from the time it was proclaimed, July 4, 1894, till Hawaii became a territory of the United States.

It was a new thing which this commission had to do. We had never before had to frame a government for territory two thousand miles away. But the Constitution gives Congress full power, and some of the principles hitherto applied in the government of territories are adapted to Hawaii.

A bill establishing a territorial government in Hawaii became a law by the signature of the President, April 30, 1900.

The form of government closely resembles that of existing territories, including a governor and other executive officers, a legislature of two branches, and a

judiciary consisting of a supreme court, circuit court and inferior courts.

It provides that Hawaii shall be represented in Congress by a delegate who shall have a seat in the House of Representatives,



EXECUTIVE MANSION, HONOLULU.

with a right to debate, but not a vote. The delegate to Congress will be chosen at an election of the people.

The tariff laws of the United States are extended over the islands, so they have the same free trade with the states that all other states and territories of the Union enjoy, and the same revenues on imports

from foreign countries. The Territory of Hawaii is specifically made a customs district of the United States, with ports of entry at Honolulu, Hilo, Mahukona and Kahului.

The bill establishes an educational qualification for the suffrage, and gives the appointment of the supreme and circuit courts to the President. For the first governor of the Territory of Hawaii, the President appointed Mr. Dole, who had already proved his ability and devotion to Hawaiian welfare.

The new government will probably have to struggle for years with the adjustment of the United States laws concerning Asiatic laborers. While unlimited immigration would threaten the civilization of the islands, it is true that Asiatic labor will continue an important factor in the products of the great sugar, rice and coffee plantations of the Hawaiian Territory.

## The Hawaiian Volcanoes.

With the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands, we brought under our dominion the two most wonderful volcanoes in the world, Mauna Loa and Kilauea. These two volcanoes lie near together on Hawaii, the largest island of the group.

Mauna Loa is nearly fourteen thousand feet above the level of the sea. A great group of craters opens on the very summit, and in their centre lies the vast primitive crater, two thousand yards wide and one thousand feet deep.

The great lava streams are very seldom discharged from the very rim of Mauna Loa, but the molten lava mostly escapes from fissures made far below, on the side of the mountain. Advices from Honolulu told that in the late great eruption the city, although two hundred miles distant, was enveloped in smoke from the volcano.



The town of Hilo, on the coast east of Mauna Loa, has been several times menaced by streams of lava from the volcano. What one of these streams is like is thus told by a writer at Honolulu:



LAVA FLOW.

“I spent a night at the end of a glossy black river of humpy rock, over half a mile wide, sluggishly eating its way through a dense and lofty forest. Out of its irregular, billowy front line of black tongues of rock among the trees, fresh red tongues of molten rock were here and there pushing

forward, wrapping in flame the lofty trees and broad ferns.

“One broad tongue slowly crept down a brook channel, licking up the water pools with loud explosions. In half an hour we could step across the congealed lava, although it bent like ice under the weight. We boiled our coffee on the hot, rounded ends of a tongue, as on a stove. When our breakfast was finished, the rock opened and emitted a fresh stream.

“It ran sluggishly like pitch. It was forty miles from its source, whence it had come through a few covered tunnels, where it ran swiftly, near the end ramifying into a multitude of streamlets. The general rate of advance averaged perhaps one hundred feet a day. Much of the lava was expended in piling up behind to an average depth of ten feet or more.

“The whole formed a cruel monster, slowly creeping toward its prey, the beautiful town on the bay. It was a long agony

for the people, as month after month the terrible fire drew nearer, until, after thirteen months of fears and prayers, it suddenly ceased only six miles away. Again in 1881 the terror was repeated with a swifter stream and longer flow, which almost grazed the town."

In 1868 a fiery stream forced its way to the surface through the side of Kilauea, and after flowing sixty miles to the southwest, poured in a flaming cataract over the cliffs into the sea, where it formed a great pyramid of lava. It was estimated that fifteen billions of cubic feet were discharged by the volcano on that occasion.

In 1881 the amount of lava flowing was so great that it continued in motion for nine months before it had cooled enough to stop the onward march of death.

Kilauea rises but four thousand feet above the sea, but its crater is a great circular chasm nine miles around, and its centre is a fearful mass of boiling, steaming

lava. This is the crater, and the only one, that is so often visited by tourists and scientific men, for it is not only the most noteworthy volcano in the world, but may be examined with great convenience.

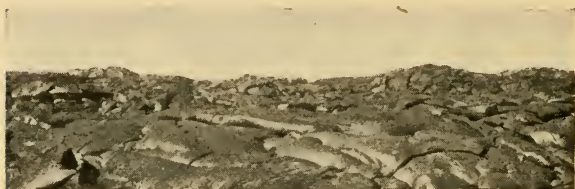


TROPICAL REGION NEAR HILO.

Stages run by an easy road about thirty miles from Hilo. For the greater part of the distance the journey is through the most beautiful tropical regions, abounding in luxuriant vegetation growing on the decomposed lava of past ages. The road

ends 'on the barren lava in the most desolate and dreary region imaginable.

At a safe and convenient distance from the crater a hotel is located, where visitors may rest and examine the crater at leisure. In ordinary times this large crater contains



LIFELESS LAVA.

a sea of molten lava, boiling red and almost white-hot in the interior, and rolling toward the edge or bank. As the lava moves toward the shore it cools, darkens and stiffens. Other masses boil over it, break and bury it to melt and boil up again.

All around the crater are masses of black lifeless lava, with here and there fissures emitting deadly sulphurous gases. A guide is always needed to guard visitors against dangerous places. There are many

openings to which ladies and gentlemen can go with perfect safety, into which one may thrust the end of his walking-stick and pull it out ablaze.

It is a peculiarity of the Hawaiian volcano that it has always crusted lava around its crater, and never a cone of cinders, like Vesuvius or other well-known volcanoes.

It is interesting to note that all the islands of the Hawaiian group are volcanic in origin. Each has one or more extinct volcanoes. In geological history the island farthest west is the oldest, and Hawaii is the youngest island. It naturally follows that the volcanoes of Hawaii should be the survivors.

The native Hawaiians supposed the crater of Kilauea to be the abode of their destructive goddess, Pele. Many an innocent little pig or chicken has been thrown into the boiling fire to appease Pele's wrath, that she might turn aside a threatening calamity.

J. E. CHAMBERLIN.

## Poi-Making in Hawaii.

What maize was to the American Indian, what rice is to the Chinaman, poi was and still is to the Hawaiian. It is the national dish, the one distinctive article of food that marks off the island cooking from all others.

Poi is not only a most healthful and nutritious food, but one that commends itself to the civilized palate.

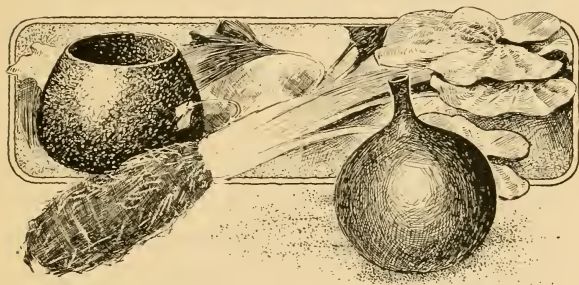
The taro plant seems to have been derived originally from India, whence it was widely diffused. It grows freely along the muddy banks of streams and in wet places all over the islands at low altitudes.

The abundant rainfall in some portions of the island of Hawaii, especially about Hilo, makes it possible to cultivate taro on the uplands, and its broad, arrow-head-shaped leaves of dark green are a familiar sight around most of the native houses.

A patch of taro, after being planted,



requires a year or more to come to maturity. The plants require little care or cultivation during this long period, and once ready for digging, the crop is a perpetual one, for the native plants as he digs. It is necessary only to cut off the tops of



TARO AND POI DISHES.

the tubers and insert them into the mucky soil, where they soon take root and flourish.

The amount of food supplied by a fair-sized taro patch is prodigious. Probably a quarter of an acre of thrifty taro will feed a good-sized family.

The leaves when young are tender and succulent, and when boiled make most

delicious greens. These are known to the natives as *luan*, and this name came to be applied also to a native feast. To Europeans it now signifies almost any merrymaking on the part of the natives.

But it is the root, or more properly the tuber, of the taro plant that is most highly prized. When taken from the ground this is of a dark brown color and shaped like a beet, but larger.

While in the raw state, taro is entirely too acrid for the palate of any animal, save the hog, and it is by no means relished even by piggy. Thorough cooking, however, destroys the acrid principle.

Baked taro root is most toothsome, and in general character is much like the sweet potato. Baked in the shape of cakes, with a nice brown crust, it appeals to the taste even of the most epicurean; but it is in the shape of poi that it is most acceptable to the natives.

The following is the ancient way of

making the staple article: After being well washed, the tubers are placed in an oblong pit in the ground, in which a goodly number of stones have been heated very hot. Tubers and stones well mingled together are then covered with a thick layer of broad, green leaves, as of the banana, or of the taro. Water is then poured over all to insure plenty of steam, and the whole is covered with earth. After steaming several hours, the roots are soft and ready for pounding, the skin having first been scraped off.

So far the women may have done the work. Now it is the men's turn.

The poi board is about four feet long and two feet broad, slightly hollowed out, rounded at the ends, and may be likened to a huge platter. Usually it is made of koa wood, which is much like mahogany in hardness and durability, and something like it in color.

The poi pestle is made from a bit of

solid, hard-grained basalt rock, carefully selected, and worked into the shape of a short, broad pestle which weighs several pounds.

Seating himself on the ground, with the board between his outstretched legs so as



MAKING POI.

to steady it, the Hawaiian swings the pestle well behind the head, often with both hands, and brings it heavily down upon one of the tubers, which is soon reduced to a pulpy, dough-like mass.

Other roots are then added, and the

mass under the stone soon grows larger and the pile of tubers as steadily diminishes.

Poi is sticky stuff, and the stone has to be dipped frequently into water while the dough is continually patted with wetted hands, and lifted from the board to prevent it from sticking.

Poi is well-made when the dough is of an even consistency throughout, and is free from lumps. This means that it must be steadily pounded for an hour or two. The dough is then firm and stiff; and it is in this condition that it is sold for consumption.

Poi is ready to be eaten after it is thinned with water to the consistency of good paste; but it is not much esteemed till after it has stood for at least twenty-four hours or more, when it begins to ferment and sour. It gets more and more palatable for several days, the slight acidity adding much to its flavor. Poi is also thought to

be more easily digested in the fermented state.

Unappreciative Europeans, not to the manner trained, are apt to describe poi as smelling and tasting like billstickers' paste. It may be so. If true, it only proves, not that poi is bad, but that we have hitherto overlooked a delicious article of food in billstickers' paste.

When it comes to the eating of the poi, there are several methods. The one that finds favor with most Europeans is to eat it with a fork or a spoon, but such is not the Hawaiian method. The native early discovered that the first two fingers of the right hand were made to eat poi with, and the primitive way is still good enough for the modern Hawaiian.

The two fingers are dipped into the sticky mess to just below the first joint, and withdrawn with a neat little flourish which wraps the paste nicely around them. If the fingers are thrust into the

mouth and withdrawn properly, the poi is all left behind.

When a native family is at dinner, the poi pot is the centre dish. Into it are dipped in turn the fingers of each member of the family, from the oldest to the youngest.

Taro poi is the real and only accepted poi among the Hawaiians, but breadfruit treated in the same manner makes an equally nice food, and by some it is even more highly esteemed.

Breadfruit - trees are not overabundant in the Hawaiian Islands, nor, I am told, are they so large or so prolific of their fine fruit as in the southern islands, where the poi is mostly made from breadfruit.

So wedded to their poi are the Hawaiians that when they can get neither taro nor breadfruit, I have seen them make a sort of poi from flour.

PROF. H. W. HENSHAW.



## The Samoan Islands.

Tutuila, the latest acquisition of the United States, is one of the three most important of the Samoan Islands, which number nine, besides several uninhabitable rocky islets. These islands were little known until 1830, when native teachers from the Society Islands first landed.

On account of the numerous canoes which were seen, and the great dexterity of the natives in paddling them through the surf, the islands were called the Navigators Islands, but Samoa is the native name for the group.

As approached from the water, the islands are very beautiful. They rise up by gradual ascent inland to the height of four thousand or five thousand feet. The hills are clothed with abundant vegetation to the very summit, an effect of rich green to which the spreading foliage of the

breadfruit and picturesque stateliness of the cocoanut-trees largely contribute.

In addition to these features, picture to yourself villages situated at the foot of the hills near the shore, and canoes full of natives navigating these waters, or steering skilfully through the surf, and you will have



A VILLAGE ON THE SHORE.

a pretty good general idea of the islands as seen by the first visitors in the days of heathen Samoa.

The natives are not negroes, but are probably descended from the same stock as the people of the Malayan peninsula, some of whom, in remote times, may have

gradually drifted to these far-away islands. They are of a bright copper color, have good features and black hair. Many of the women are very pretty and graceful, and have fine, regular white teeth.

Their language is a very soft and liquid one. Not counting letters added from the English, it has only fourteen letters, five of which are vowels. A curious thing about their language is that they used to have a special dialect of respect for chiefs and strangers, which might not be used in addressing any one else, and which it was an insult to forget to use to the right parties.

The Samoans were always very cleanly of person, bathing very frequently. Mothers would take their infant children into the water on their backs, and little mites of three or four years of age would paddle about in the water without the slightest fear. The result has been that, to this day, the natives, both men and

women, are very expert in the water, and can swim and dive like fishes.

Little boys will swim about in the boiling surf, and even for amusement allow



PRETTY AND GRACEFUL.

themselves to be carried on the waves right over the reefs, with nothing but a small piece of wood to hold on to. An instance

occurred in my father's time of a woman swimming eighteen miles.

The native houses originally consisted of nothing more than several uprights supporting a roof of breadfruit wood, thatched with leaves of the sugar-cane sewn together with *sinnet* (cocoanut fibre).

The sides were open save on occasions, such as the rainy season, when the space from roof to ground was screened by sewing leaves together. To protect themselves from mosquitoes, each sleeper would form a kind of tent or bed-curtain by hanging a piece of *siapo* (native cloth) over a cross-bar, and creep underneath.

Meals were taken under this common roof, each one of the family sitting cross-legged on the ground, and having his portion before him on a leaf. A half cocoanut shell, often carved and stained, served as a drinking-cup. It is worthy of note, in this connection, that it was quite the custom for the father of the family to ask the

blessing of the gods before commencing meals, and at the same time, after the manner of the ancient Greeks, to pour out a libation of *kava* drink.

The cooking was done in a primitive but effective manner, by means of hot stones. A hole was dug, into which stones were put, and upon them a hot fire was built. So soon as the stones were thoroughly hot, the food—a whole pig perhaps, or a quantity of fruits—was put upon them with some more hot stones on top, and then the whole was covered with leaves and earth for a half-hour or more. The result was a dinner “done to a turn,” and more delicious than if done in one of our ovens.

For great feasts the provision was on a most extensive scale, and for days, even weeks before, the natives would gather together fruits and pigs at a specified place in the bush. On the great day there was a mighty roast, say, of two hundred or three hundred pigs, and

vast quantities of yams, breadfruit and cocoanuts.

The feast, which might last a day or several days, always wound up with



A SAMOAN FEAST.

dancing and various other amusements. Indeed, the Samoans are very fond of amusements, and frequently engage in wrestling, boxing,—both men and women,



—canoe races, and quite a number of other games, including practice with clubs and spears.

With the spear and club they are very dexterous, and can, with unerring aim, put spear after spear into a tree at the distance of fifty or eighty paces.

One game, which is also a war drill, is for a man, armed only with a club, to stand at a distance from his comrades and let them throw spears at him, it being his part to strike off with the club each spear as it reaches him. Remembering the sure aim of those who throw, you can see that it requires much practice and wonderful quickness to ward off the spears, but they do it every time.

Their spears and clubs are made of hard woods, such as cocoanut and ironwood, and are often carved. The natives often tip their spears with ugly-looking barbed points which tear the flesh when extracted.

Canoeing is quite a part of their life, and

they make large numbers of canoes, from the simple dugout to the large war canoe holding fifty or one hundred people. The boats are all provided with outriggers, for they are too long and narrow to float without them. All the parts of the canoe are



A NATIVE HOME.

sewn together with sinnet, and the whole made water-tight with a covering of resinous gum.

A whole article might be written upon the religion and the superstitions of the Samoans. They were not worshippers of idols, although they were heathens. Their religion was a worship of spirits—spirits

without number. Each person was supposed to have a protecting deity, and each village had one also, who presided over the destinies of the inhabitants.

Their religion, with its strange ideas and elaborate mythology, is now for the most part a thing of the past. In seventy years, since the missionaries landed, the people have become fairly Christianized and civilized. They have given up their superstitions, and adopted many of the habits and customs of the white men; they live in properly built houses, and on special occasions dress in the same style.

The missionaries started schools and workshops, and taught the natives reading, writing, sewing and other useful things.

They now have self-supporting churches and schools, and contribute largely to missionary work elsewhere. Natives of Samoa have for years past been missionaries to other islands.

REV. ROBT. G. HARBUTT.

## Tutuila and Manua.

By a treaty with England and Germany, in December, 1899, our republic became the owner of Tutuila, the third largest island of the Samoan group, and of four small islands lying some distance to the eastward.

For agricultural purposes the two larger Samoan islands present greater possibilities than Tutuila, but ours is by far the most valuable to us of all the islands in the South Pacific Ocean, because it contains the best harbor.

As early as 1870 an American merchant called the attention of our government to the need of a coaling-station in the Pacific, for both government vessels and our merchant marine. He reported that Pago-Pago, on the south side of Tutuila, would satisfy the requirements in every particular.

It has a spacious bay with deep water

near the shore, and is surrounded by high hills which offer perfect protection to the largest navy in the severest tornado.

When, in 1873, the seven Samoan chiefs followed the suggestion of Americans and



PAGO-PAGO.

elected Malietoa king, a portion of the harbor of Pago-Pago was set off for the use of the United States as a coaling-station.

Throughout the misrule following the rebellion of 1884, to the present time, our government kept possession of Pago-Pago.

England held a strong interest in the educational and missionary institutions of Samoa. Germany had agricultural and commercial interests in the islands. The three nations together tried to preserve the integrity of the little kingdom.

But intrigue and rebellion continued, and when it was found that the native government was not strong enough to keep the peace, it was decided to divide the kingdom, and the United States received the part that was of most use to us.

Pago-Pago harbor will always be valuable as a coaling-station. It may possibly become a commercial centre for all the groups of islands in that part of the Pacific.

It is located near the routes of the large transpacific steamers from San Francisco and Vancouver to Australia and New Zealand, and it is the only harbor on their route, except Honolulu, that those large steamers can enter.

As the products of the Pacific islands

increase under the stimulus of civilization, we may confidently expect to see a growing and thriving commercial city at Pago-Pago.

Tutuila is about seventeen miles long and five miles wide. A ridge of mountains runs the whole length of the island, with peaks rising some four thousand feet high.

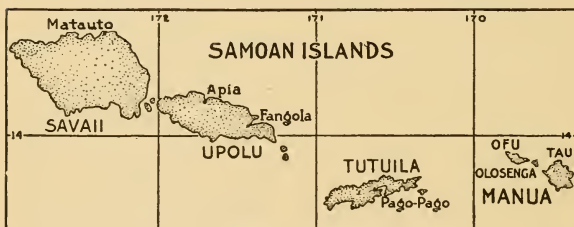
The surface is so rocky that there are few cultivated fields, yet wherever there is a bit of soil it is very fertile and will bear abundant crops of every vegetable and fruit needed by man. Breadfruit, bananas, yams, taro and sweet potatoes grow freely. Cocoanuts may be gathered every day in the year.

The only export is copra, the dried fruit of the cocoanut. Preparing this, and weaving clothing and mats from the bark of the paper mulberry are the only manufactures of the people, and weaving is rapidly diminishing since the importation of cheap cotton prints.

The population of Tutuila is about four



thousand, living in some thirty villages scattered along the shores of the island and by the little streams from the mountains, where it is easy to raise their poultry and pigs, and gather their fruits and vegetables, and is convenient to catch fish in



SAMOA AND MANUA.

their waters. They are a superior branch of Polynesians, fairly well educated by missionaries, and they strictly observe the Christian Sabbath.

United States money has been the standard currency for twenty years, and American rule is welcomed by the natives. When the American officer arrived to take possession of Tutuila, the leading men of

the island met him with enthusiasm and presented him with a formal deed of cession, and at the same time assured him of their joy at coming under the Stars and Stripes.

Reports indicate that many families from the other Samoan islands have lately moved to Tutuila, because they preferred the advantages of American schools and the liberal privileges of the American government.

About seventy miles northeast of Tutuila we own the Manua group of three islands, Tau, Ofu and Olosenga, all rocky islands like Tutuila.

Tau is seven miles in diameter; the other two islands extend about a mile in the longest direction. Vegetation is luxuriant on every inch of soil and in the crevices of the rocks.

The population is nearly a thousand well-educated Christian people, who boast that they have always been independent in

government and rejoice to be called Americans.

When they heard of the voluntary cession of Tutuila, their chiefs begged the privilege of making a similar cession of Manua. Their allegiance was accepted, and with imposing ceremonies; the American flag was raised in the presence of the United States officers and a great multitude of natives.

Rose Island, the smallest of our Samoan possessions, is about ninety miles southeast of Tau. It is a mile in diameter, and its highest point is only about fifty feet above the sea, so that in the severest storms waves must dash over most of the island; yet there are indications that formerly it was covered with vegetation.

## Guam.

The first American military expedition to the Philippine Islands stopped on the way June 20, 1898, to take possession of Guam, the southernmost and largest of the Ladrone Islands.

This act was a war measure to provide a safe harbor between Honolulu and Manila for a coaling - station, or for temporary repairs if needed by our transports on the way to Manila.

Guam is so far from ordinary communication with the continents that when the Americans arrived, the governor had not heard of the war, and supposed the guns were fired as a salute.

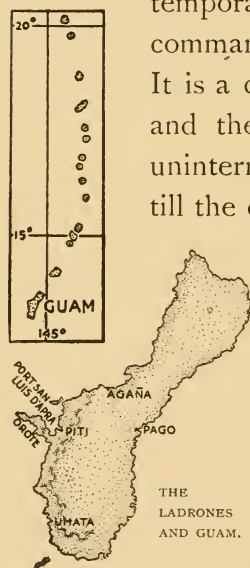
The governor surrendered the whole chain of fifteen islands, but our government at the Treaty of Paris gave back all but Guam to Spain, who promptly disposed of them to Germany.

The Governor of the Ladrões and all his Spanish garrison were taken prisoners of war and carried to Manila. An American citizen living on the island was made

temporary governor, and put in command of the native guard. It is a credit to both this man and the people of Guam that uninterrupted peace prevailed till the coming of the Americans

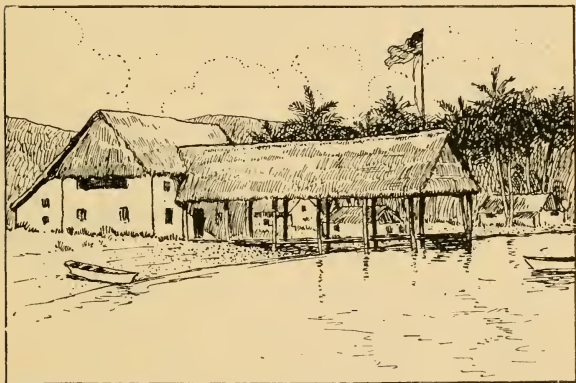
to take formal possession in February, 1899.

In July of the same year, Capt. Richard P. Leary of the United States cruiser *Yosemite* arrived as governor, and proceeded to establish a permanent



civil government, under the Navy Department of the United States. His garrison was formed of marines, and the *Yosemite* served as protection to the port.

Guam is about twenty-six miles long and about five miles wide across the centre, the narrowest part; it widens toward each end. The capital, Agaña, is midway along the northwestern side, and seven



LANDING-PLACE AT PITI.

miles farther west is Piti, the landing-place of Port San Luis de Apra, one of the best insular harbors of the Pacific.

Under Governor Leary the bay has been surveyed and charted, so that its narrow entrance is safe for vessels of all sizes, although the water shoals near the shore,

so that landing must be made in small boats.

Guam is greatly favored in climate and soil. Nearly every fruit and vegetable needed by man grows on the island, and vegetation on the hills is very dense. Near Agaña is the central valley, in which rice, taro, sugar-cane, bananas, cocoanuts and other tropical fruits and vegetables grow.

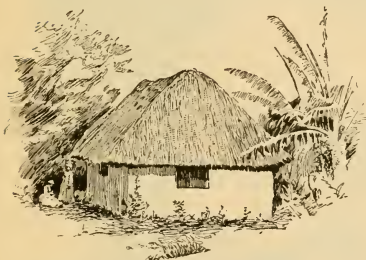
To the north extends a plateau, bearing coffee and all subtropical and temperate zone vegetables. These same products, together with valuable woods, grow in the southern portion. Along its western side extends a high ridge of hills, at some places rising abruptly from the sea.

The only export under Spanish rule was copra, and that went in trade to Japan. Now that the steam sawmill has been set up, we may expect a sale of colored woods, and later an export of a very choice coffee, and possibly sugar and rice.

Heretofore there has been no induce-



ment to raise crops or manufacture anything beyond the family necessities. Almost everybody owns land, and lives happily in raising his own pigs and poultry, and all the fruit and vegetables needed for his family. His home is in one of the



A NIPA HUT.

picturesque little villages along the shore, embowered in palms and profuse shrubbery.

The usual dwelling is the Nipa hut with bamboo walls. Some more ambitious families will build of hand-made planks, and a few wealthy families have houses made like their small churches, of the soft limestone of the island. The finest house of all is the governor's palace at Agaña, which was made to include the post-office and police headquarters.

The uniform climate, having a temper-

ature within eighty to eighty-four degrees throughout the year, with a constant breeze, and a great abundance of food of every variety have developed a superior branch



AN EASY LIFE.

of the Malay race. They welcome visitors and have been quick to respond to the influence of civilization.

They are a happy people, and enjoy the amusements of holidays. Among their sports cock-fighting has become almost a

passion. The people are naturally neat ; their scanty clothing permits frequent bathing. The men usually dress in shirt and trousers, with the former outside, and often omitted when at work.

The women's dress consists of a white jacket with low neck and loose, short sleeves and a cotton skirt of bright colors. On "dress occasions," or among the wealthy, the jacket is embroidered, in some cases to the extent of making it a very costly garment. Heelless slippers of bright colors are worn, but in ordinary life almost everybody goes barefooted.

There is a schoolhouse in nearly every village, and a large portion of the people can read and write in their own language, and many, especially the half - breeds, understand some Spanish and English. The latter they learned in past years from American traders and whalers.

The latest and greatest improvements have been made by the establishment of

American schools, and the introduction of American machines and agricultural implements. The people take readily to instruction in manual labor, and the patriotic songs of America fascinate them. In nearly every home at least one member of the family can play a musical instrument of some kind.

With the little government entirely free from politics, as it will naturally be under the Navy Department, we may confidently expect Guam to become a model colony.



## The Midway Islands.

For a thousand miles or more beyond Hawaii toward Japan extends a shoal which occasionally touches the surface in a reef or little island. At the western end of this irregular shoal are three islands, formerly called Brooks Islands, in honor of the American discoverer, and now known as the Midway Islands.

The smallest is a mere sandy spit, over which the waves dash in storms. The other two islands are each four or five miles long and about a mile wide.

There is no indication that these islands were ever inhabited, but the soil is good, and there is an abundance of sweet water, so that quite a large colony could subsist on the tropical fruits that might be raised, and the abundant fish and turtle that abound in the lagoons and waters surrounding these islands.

The possible value of the Midway Islands lies in their convenience for a relay-station of a future Pacific cable and for a coaling-station, since they are on the direct route from Honolulu to Yokohama. There is a fine and safe harbor for vessels no larger than colliers, and outside the harbor, in the roadstead, there is good anchorage for the largest steamers, offering all necessary facilities for recoaling in fair weather.

Captain Brooks discovered the islands in 1859. The American government took formal possession August 28, 1867, and raised the Stars and Stripes on the highest point. In the past few years the islands have been more thoroughly examined, with a view of establishing a permanent station for coaling and for a future Pacific cable.

One of the Midway Islands visited by the United States expedition making surveys for the Pacific cable is described as inhabited by an almost incredible number of

sea-birds. Upon fully one-half the surface of the island the sand was literally covered with them, and the noise of the winged host astonished the visitors. A few land-birds were noticed here and there among them.

The Midway albatross refused to retreat before the invader, and bravely faced the foe. But it is none the braver since it is now American, for the albatross on other islands of the Pacific has so little fear of man that it will scarcely move aside to let the egg-hunters plunder its nest.

A neighboring island from which newly laid eggs may be taken every day would be appreciated by a colony at an isolated cable-office or coaling-station.



## Wake Island.

Commander Taussig of the gunboat *Bennington*, on his way from Honolulu to Guam in February, 1899, stopped at Wake Island, and took formal possession of it in the name of the United States.

A boat's crew was sent ashore, a flagstaff was erected, and the American flag was hoisted. A brass plate was fastened to the flagstaff to record the date of the ceremony and its meaning.

This little bit of uninhabited territory in the Pacific lies very near the route from Honolulu to Guam and the Philippines, and we are therefore naturally interested in it.

The claim of the United States to this island is based on original discovery in the year 1796 by Captain Wake, who gave his name to the island. It was also visited by a United States exploring expedition and

officially described to the government together with other islands of the Pacific.

Wake Island is of coral formation and is about four miles long and two miles wide. It is of so slight elevation that in severest storms the spray of the waves may possibly be driven all over it. This may account for the fact that there are no large trees on the island, but only shrubs and low vegetation, with an entire lack of fresh water.

As Wake Island is nearly in a direct line from Hawaii to the Philippines, it would be a good location for a cable-station. Its lack of harbor and lack of food and water for man, however, would make it a very lonely dwelling-place.

Yet it is possible to make it habitable. An embankment could be made far enough from the water's edge to protect all the land within, and an abundance of food could be raised on even a small area.

Rain-water in abundance could be obtained from roofs and catch-basins, and

stored in cisterns, as is the custom in Bermuda. The neighboring waters abound in fish.

Doubtless, if our government ever establishes a cable-station at Wake Island, which is not at all improbable, American ingenuity will invent some means of making the place habitable, not only for the cablemen, but for some neighbors.

## The Guano Islands.

In August, 1856, Congress authorized and encouraged American citizens to discover and occupy any unclaimed islands containing guano, wherever they might be found.

In a few years following the United States took authority over about seventy small islands, some of them mere reefs, which had apparently been the undisturbed homes of multitudes of water-fowl for countless ages.

At that time the idea of territorial expansion did not prevail in this country, and the government did not pretend to claim permanent ownership. It merely protected the American citizen or company in the business of removing guano from these islands.

They are called bonded islands because the men or companies operating them gave

bonds to comply with the provisions made by our government concerning their business and its relation to other nations, and to relinquish all claims to the land after they had removed the guano.

About a dozen of the Guano Islands are in the Caribbean Sea, and some fifty or more are in the Pacific Ocean, scattered from eight degrees north of the equator to twelve degrees south, and from one hundred and fifty to one hundred and seventy-eight degrees west longitude.

A very few lie outside these limits, as guano accumulates only on small uninhabited islands in the comparatively rainless regions near the equator, where the birds have been undisturbed in raising their young through the centuries.

In regions of great rainfall the heavy showers would be pitiless to the young birds, and the floods would every year wash off the guano deposits.

When the islands were first bonded the

guano sold at a very high price as a fertilizer, but since the immense beds of phosphates have been discovered in our Southern States, the demand for guano has so decreased that shipments are no longer very profitable.

At least one of the islands in the Caribbean Sea has been sold to Venezuela, and several of the Pacific islands lying near the British possessions of the Phœnix Islands have been given to England, and other small islands have been abandoned.





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